INTRODUCTION

1. At their seventh meeting held in Tangier, Morocco, in November 1989, the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning approved the objectives, strategies and guidelines for the preparation of the second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa Programme.

2. The Conference fully recognized that the global objectives of the first Decade, that is, establishment of integrated transport and communications systems in Africa as a basis for the physical integration of the continent, improving the efficiency of the systems, facilitating national and international traffic and fostering co-operation among African countries, were still valid for the second Decade. While the development objective was unchanged, the Conference decided to adopt a new strategy on the basis of the experience gained from the first Decade and in order to avoid the short-comings revealed by the programme evaluation which was conducted at the end of 1987.

3. The new strategy focuses on the "bottom-up approach" which enables effective participation by all parties involved in the preparation of the second Decade programme, i.e., users and policy-makers at national, subregional, regional, subsectoral, institutional and agency levels. More specifically, the strategy required:

(a) The creation in every African country of a national co-ordinating committee (NCC), composed of senior government officials and representatives of the private sector, to assist the government in the articulation and definition of country sectoral strategies and objectives;

(b) The establishment of subsectoral and subregional working groups to prepare subsectoral and subregional strategies and programmes. These groups were to include intergovernmental organizations, United Nations specialized agencies as well as international institutions and organizations;

(c) The establishment of a Resource Mobilization Committee (RMC), composed of the following international financing institutions and leading institutions: the African Development Bank (ADB), Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), European Economic Community (EEC), African, Carribean and Pacific Group (ACP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Organization of African Unity (OAU), the World Bank and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to provide technical, methodological and financial guidance in the preparation and implementation of the programme.

4. It should be pointed out that the above new strategy was designed to strengthen and support the work of the Decade organs which were established during the first Decade and have been retained for UNTACDA II: the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee, the Intergovernmental Experts on Transport and Communications, and ECA as lead agency.

5. Below is a brief summary of the activities which have been carried out at the various levels in the preparation of the UNTACDA II since the Tangier meeting.

I. ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS

6. Following the approval by the Conference of the objectives, strategies and guidelines for the preparation of the UNTACDA II programme, ECA initiated a series of orientation workshops: the

first in February 1990 for leaders of the national co-ordinating committees (NCCs), the second in March 1990 for African intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) which formed the subregional working groups, and the last in April 1990 for United Nations agencies and sectoral African IGOs which formed the sectoral working groups. The main purpose of these orientation workshops was to enable the setting of more specific guidelines and allocation of tasks among members of each working group for the preparation of the programme at the various levels and subsectors.

II. ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

7. The critical role to be played by the NCCs based on the bottom-up approach is the preparation of UNTACDA II programme has been well articulated and defined and their terms of reference and composition were clearly established and approved by the Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in Tangier is DEC/TRANSCOM/67/Rev.4.

8. With specific regard to their establishment and activities, as of December 1990, only 32 countries had reported to have established their NCCs: Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

9. As a direct result of missions carried out by ECA and some subregional organizations, Djibouti, Lesotho, Somalia, Swaziland and Tunisia were reported to be in the process of establishing their NCCs.

10. In summary, out of 51 member States, ECA has not received information on the status or otherwise of NCCs in 14 member States.

11. Of the 32 member States that have established NCCs, only 26 of them have submitted their countries' inputs of the strategy and programme, viz: Algeria, Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Sudan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

12. Several NCCs did request technical assistance from ECA in the preparation of their national programmes and, based on the established principle, these requests were forwarded to the Chairman of the Resource Mobilization Committee for action. From the pattern of requests, it is evident that some NCCs lacked adequate resources to effectively carry out the national components of their UNTACDA II programme preparation. However, ECA continued to urge them to continue the preparations with those resources normally available for their regular activities.

III. SUBREGIONAL ACTIVITIES

13. Subregional working groups were set up during the March 1990 meeting of the African intergovernmental organizations for economic co-operation. Each of the four African subregions (i.e., North, West, Central and Eastern and Southern) elected a leader to co-ordinate their activities, which among other things included assisting their member States in the preparation of national programmes. Below is a summary of their activities.

14. The fifth meeting of RMC fixed the IACC meeting to be held from 17 to 20 December 1990 in order to meet the deadline already set for the meeting of experts in the first week of February 1991. All the other meetings were concluded in advance of the above dates. The meetings for the subregions were held in October to December as follows:

North Africa: 8-12 October 1990, Addis Ababa
Central Africa 22-26 October 1990, Libreville
West Africa 29 October-2 November 1990, Ouagadougou
Eastern and Southern Africa 4-7 December 1990, Lusaka

A. Eastern and Southern Africa

15. This subregional working group is co-ordinated by the secretariat of the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA). The assistance to member States was divided up among the respective smaller subregional organizations, namely SATCC, CEPGL, IGADD, (NTTC) and KBO, while the PTA secretariat itself covered those countries which do not belong to these organizations in addition to its role of co-ordinating the activities of all the above, so as to produce a consolidated subregional programme.

16. The convergence meeting of the Eastern and Southern Africa Subregional Working Group was held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 4 to 7 December 1990 under the chairmanship of the PTA. It was attended by NCC representatives from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The following IGOs of the subregion took part in the meeting: PTA, CEPGL, KBO and (TTCA). In addition, ITU, UNCTAD, UAR and ECA also participated as well as representatives of the various sectoral working groups.

17. Each NCC representative presented reports on their national strategy and programmes for the Decade. The representative of PTA, as co-ordinator of the Subregional Working Group then presented the subregional view. The sector representatives then presented their sectoral reports. All these various reports were analyzed together, the problem areas were identified and the strategy and draft programme for the subregion were drawn.

B. West Africa

18. The West African subregional working group is co-ordinated by the secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), assisted by the secretariat of the Economic Community of West Africa (CEAO), as well as ECA. Other members of the group are ECA, OAU, Mano River Union (MRU), Organization for Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), Organization for the Development of the Gambia River (OMVG), CILSS, MINCONMAR, Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the Liptako-Gourma Authority.

19. The West African subregional meeting was held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 29 October to 2 November 1990 and was chaired by ECOWAS.

20. The meeting was attended by only four member countries out of the total sixteen ECOWAS member States. These were Burkina Faso, Mali, the Niger and Sierra Leone. The following subregional intergovernmental organizations took part in the meeting: ECOWAS, CEAO, Lake Chad Basin Commission (CBLT), the Mano River Union (MRU) , the Liptako-Gourma Authority

and the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). International and regional agencies which participated in the meeting were ITU, PAPU, UAR, the World Bank and ECA.

21. The national co-ordinating committee members as well as the subregional organizations and representatives of sectoral working groups elaborated their respective strategies and priority programmes for the second Decade. However, in view of the low participation of member States, the meeting called upon ECOWAS to organize another meeting to review all the inputs so far received as well as those to be expected from the rest of the national co-ordinating committees and prepare the strategy and programme for West Africa.

22. The follow-up meeting was subsequently held at ECOWAS headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria on 29 and 30 November 1990. Again, only three NCCs took part in the meeting, namely Nigeria, Ghana and the Niger; thus, in total only six out of the sixteen member States of the subregion participated in the strategy meetings.

23. However, part of the subregion consisting of the seven CEAO countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Mali, the Niger, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania) plus Togo were sufficiently covered in the CEAO project which was funded by the World Bank. That project carried out the base-line assessment and developed the general strategy for the development of the transport and communications sectors during the Decade. Some action programmes to be carried out at the subregional level have been identified.

24. ECA had, in the meantime, prepared a draft strategy and programme document for the subregion based on the submissions of CEAO, OMVS, CBLT, the Liptako Gourma Authority and the ongoing programmes of ECOWAS and MRU.

C. Central Africa

25. In the Central African subregion, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) is the co-ordinating International Government Organizations (IGOs) and other members of the group are Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC), Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL).

26. With the assistance of ECA, the Central African subregional meeting was held at Libreville, Gabon from 22 to 26 October 1990 under the chairmanship of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The meeting was attended by eight of the ten member countries as well as by representatives from CAPTAC, CEPGL, the World Bank, ITU and UNDP. Only Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe were not represented.

27. The participants representing the national co-ordinating committees gave presentations of the situation and development of the transport and communications systems in their respective countries as well as the strategies and programmes envisaged for the second Decade.

28. The subregional intergovernmental organizations, namely ECCAS, CEPGL likewise elaborated the strategies and programmes pertaining to the relevant situation in the subregion. The representatives of the various sectoral working groups also presented the proposed strategies for each sector of transport and communications.

29. At the end of the presentation of the national, subregional and sectoral papers, and the discussions and debates which followed thereafter, strategic and priority programmes were developed. These include:

(a) The corridor approach for the development of the multimodal transport system;

(b) Maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing transport and communications infrastructure;

(c) The creation of manufacturing capabilities for spare parts, modules, and organizing central maintenance workshops;

(d) Training and human resources development; and

(e) Facilitation of traffic.

D. North Africa

30. ECA organized a meeting for the North African subregion from 8 to 12 October 1990 in Addis Ababa, where four of the countries, namely Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and the Sudan were represented by their respective national co-ordinators, who presented their national strategies and programmes. Algeria was represented at the meeting by a member of its Embassy in Addis Ababa. The consolidated strategy and programme for the subregion was to be finalized after the next meeting of Arab Ministers of Transport which had been scheduled to take place in Cairo. Unfortunately, the strategy and programme for the subregion have not been finalized, although it had been expected that this would be done before the Abuja meeting of February 1991.

IV. SECTORAL WORKING GROUPS

31. Besides the subregional working groups reported on above, seven subsectoral working groups were set up to prepare the strategies and programmes in their respective subsectors. The account of activities of the seven subsectoral working groups is presented below.

A. Roads and road transport

32. This working group is led by the World Bank and its other members are ECA, OAU, ADB, TAHA, ILO, UNDP and UNCTAD. The work assigned to the various members of the groups is as follows:

(a) World Bank: Rural transport and feeder roads; conditions of African roads and rehabilitation requirements, road transport;

(b) ECA: Safety, facilitation (physical and non-physical), creation of African Highway Association;

(c) ILO: Labour-intensive based maintenance and construction alternatives; and

(d) UNCTAD (in collaboration with ECA): General transport facilitation.

33. The agencies have all carried out their respective responsibilities and the working group met in Abidjan in July 1990 to review its work. Following the meeting, the group issued the Roads subsector strategy paper in December 1990.

B. Railways

34. The group is led by the Union of African Railways (UAR) and its other members are ECA, World Bank, OAU, ADB, ILO, UNDP and UNCTAD.

35. The group met in Abidjan in May 1990 to review its work. The group's report on African railway objectives, strategies and guidelines for the preparation of the UNTACDA II programme has not yet been completed.

C. Urban transport

36. The subsectoral group on urban transport is co-ordinated by the World Bank and its other members are ECA, OAU, UAR, UNDP and the African section of International Bus Owners Association.

37. The group's work is sub-divided as follows:

(a) ECA: Report on status of road safety in Africa;

(b) UAR: Report on mass transit transport in African cities;

(c) ILO: Report on ILO experience in urban transport problems;

(d) TRRL: Report on research topics of relevance to urban transport in Africa;

(e) AUPT: Report on public transport in African cities; and

(f) World Bank: Draft strategy document for the urban transport component of UNTACDA II.

38. On 10 May 1990, the group met in Brussels and established its work programme and schedule of activities and identified technical assistance needs as well as modalities for the mobilization of resources for its work.

39. The group subsequently met in Nairobi in July to review the subsector strategy and held subregional discussions in July/August 1990 to harmonize subregional strategies. The subsectoral strategy report of the group was completed by the end of the year (1990).

D. Water-based and multimodal transport

40. This working group is co-ordinated by UNCTAD and its other members are ECA, IMO, MINCONMAR, Inter-governmental Standing Committee on Shipping (ISCOS), OAU, UNDP, the Port Management Associations, ILO, Arab Maritime Transport Academy (AMTA), ADB and World Bank. The group first met in April 1990 and held a follow-up meeting in Geneva in July 1990. The group has prepared a report of the strategy and programme of the subsector for UNTACDA II.

E. Air transport

41. The air transport subsectoral working group is co-ordinated by ECA and its meetings are chaired by AFCAC. Other members of the group include AFRAA, ICAO, OAU, UNDP, ADB, ASECNA and National Civil Aviation Training Organization of Egypt (NCATO).

42. Responsibilities were assigned so that each member of the group prepared a base-line assessment of air transport in the area of its competence.

43. In August 1990, the group met in Dakar, Senegal under the auspices of AFCAC to review and finalize the various contributions by its members. After that meeting, ECA prepared a draft consolidated report of the strategies and programme of the air transport subsector for UNTACDA II.

44. This draft was subsequently presented by ECA in each of the subregional meetings and in December 1990, ECA organized a meeting in Addis Ababa where the document was finalized, taking into account the reactions and observations of the subregional groups.

F. Telecommunications and broadcasting

45. ITU is the co-ordinator of this group, whose other members include ECA, PATU, OAU, ADB, UNDP, UNESCO and URTNA.

46. The group met from 18 to 21 April 1990 in Addis Ababa and agreed on its work schedule and division of tasks. The group's draft report was prepared and distributed by ITU to all the members for comments.

47. The draft report was presented to the Central African subregional meeting in Libreville (22 to 26 October 1990) and to the West African subregional meeting in Ouagadougou (29 October to 2 November 1990) and after some improvements was submitted to the Eastern and Southern African subregional meeting in Lusaka (4 to 7 December 1990).

48. The final version of the report was distributed in Abuja, during the meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning (7 and 8 February 1991).

G. Postal services

49. The postal services subsectoral working group is co-ordinated by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and its other members are ECA, Pan-African Postal Union (PAPU), OAU and UNDP.

50. ECA convened the first meeting of the group from 18 to 21 April 1990 during which time the groups responsibilities were determined and distributed.

51. UPU prepared and submitted an interim report of the group to the RMC in September 1990. UPU also prepared the strategy report of the group which, after revision, was presented to the West African subregional group in Ouagadougou in November 1990 and the final version was distributed at the Abuja Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

V. REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

52. At the regional level, ECA as lead agency was responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the various groups. Assistance was provided to the NCCs as well as to subregional and subsectoral groups. ECA also actively participated and contributed to the work of the various subsectoral and subregional working groups, the Resource Mobilization Committee and the IACC.

53. The RMC met in March, July, September and December 1990 to draw up the guidelines for the various working groups, review the strategy that was being formulated and make recommendations for improvement. At its meeting in December 1990, the RMC reviewed the entire draft strategy and programme prior to its submission to the IACC which also met in December to consider the draft programme.

54. The draft programme was consolidated and finalized by ECA in January 1991 and was considered again by the RMC and IACC before presenting it to the eighth meeting of African Intergovernmental Experts on Transport, Communications and to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in early February 1991. At that meeting held on 7 nd 8 February 1991 in Abuja, Nigeria, the Ministers approved the draft programme of UNTACDA II without any list of projects. However, it also stressed that the UNTACDA II programme would only be complete when it included projects which will be implemented during the Decade. Consequently, an extraordinary meeting of the Conference has been set for 7 and 8 May 1991 in Addis Ababa to review and approve the initial list of projects to be included in the programme.

55. The above decision was based on the recommendations of the Resource Mobilization Committee which were endorsed both by the IACC and the Experts, that no project be included in the programme unless and until its financial and economic viability have been demonstrated through a complete analysis of all relevant information (cost, justification, rate of return, etc.).

56. The Ministers further decided that the RMC should prepare an initial list of projects for the programme based on projects which had already been submitted to ECA as well as any new projects which will have been submitted to ECA by the end of February 1991. The subregional organizations will participate in this selection process by working with their respective member countries to identify projects and collect all necessary information for preparing the profiles for those projects.

57. Projects to be included in future in the programme can be submitted on a continuous basis, but admitted every two years during the regular meetings of the Conference. In addition, mid-term evaluations of the programme will be carried out after every three years of the programme (i.e., 1994 and 1997) and a final evaluation in 2000.

58. It should be emphasized that serious difficulties were encountered in screening projects for the programme, mainly as a result of the fact that several countries did not establish NCCs; that not all NCCs so far established were fully functional; that only 26 NCCs had actually submitted their national inputs to the programme; and that a large number of national and subregional projects and programmes which have been submitted lacked adequate data and information. As a direct result of the above, the Resource Mobilization Committee, one of whose main tasks is to thoroughly screen projects to ensure that they conform to the established criteria in order to attract financing was unable to carry out the necessary project screening.

59. In view of the above facts, the Conference allowed more time for project preparation and submission, for the RMC to carry out projects screening and has scheduled an extraordinary meeting in May at which the initial list of projects will be adopted.